

PRIORITY OF *LECYTHIS AMPLA* MIERS OVER
L. COSTARICENSIS PITTIER

One of the conspicuous trees of premontane wet and tropical wet forest of lower Central America and northwestern Colombia is *Lecythis ampla*. This magnificent tree, reaching 30–40 m in height, is easily recognized by its chocolate brown, longitudinally furrowed bark, buttressed trunk, small leaves and large fruits (usually present in various stages of decomposition under the tree).

Lecythis ampla ranges from the lower Magdalena Valley of Colombia, throughout the Darién of Panama, along the Atlantic coasts of Panama and Costa Rica, and reaches the northern limits of its range in the plains of southeastern Nicaragua. Altitudinally it is distributed from near sea level (Puerto Obaldia, Panama; Sarapiquí Valley, Costa Rica; southeastern Nicaragua) to 800 m (Cerros Tacarcuna and Pirre in Darién, Panama).

Although the fruits of the species display considerable variation in absolute size, size of opercular opening and position of calyx scar, this variability does not merit specific recognition. As has been discussed by Dugand (1947) for *L. minor* Jacq. and Mori (1971) for *L. ampla*, such variation is to be expected within populations and even in the same individual of *Lecythis* species. Pittier's (1908: pl. 7) photograph of fruits of the type of *L. costaricensis* (= *L. ampla*) also illustrates variation in this species. However, he later (Pittier, 1927) described *L. armiliensis* from a single fruit that clearly falls within the range of variation so well illustrated for his *L. costaricensis*.

My field observations of this species in Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia support the conclusion that all small-leaved, large-fruited individuals of *Lecythis* from this region belong to the same species. Any attempt to taxonomically recognize fruit variation would result in a plethora of names completely unrelated to the biology of the species.

The most commonly applied name for this taxon has been *L. costaricensis*. Much earlier John Miers (1874) described and illustrated *L. ampullaria* and *L. ampla* from Antioquia, Colombia. Both species were based solely on fruits and seeds—the former on a fruit which had been altered by man to form a “water bottle” (cf. Miers, 1874: fig. 38) and the latter on an unaltered fruit and seeds of dubious origin. Nonetheless, the drawings and fruit descriptions are enough to identify both fruits with the species under consideration.

Although both names appear in the same publication, *Lecythis ampla* is the more acceptable because its description is based on an unmutated fruit.

The proper citation of the small-leaved, large-fruited *Lecythis* of Central America and Colombia is as follows:

Lecythis ampla Miers, Trans. Linn. Soc. London 30: 204, pl. 43, figs. 1–2. 1874.

L. ampullaria Miers, Trans. Linn. Soc. London 30: 201, pl. 38, figs. 1–2. 1874.

L. costaricensis Pittier, Contr. U. S. Natl. Herb. 12: 99–100, pls. 6–8, figs. 3–4. 1908.

L. armiliensis Pittier, Contr. U. S. Natl. Herb. 26: 9–10, pl. 8. 1927.

LITERATURE CITED

- DUGAND, A. 1947. Observaciones taxonomicas sobre las *Lecythis* del norte de Colombia. Caldasia 4: 411–426.

- MIERS, J. 1874. On the Lecythidaceae. Trans. Linn. Soc. London 30: 157–318.
 MORI, S. 1971. The ecology and uses of the species of *Lecythis* in Central America. Turrialba 20: 344–350.
 PITTIER, H. 1908. The Lecythidaceae of Costa Rica. Contr. U. S. Natl. Herb. 12: 95–101.
 ———. 1927. The Lecythidaceae of Central America. Contr. U. S. Natl. Herb. 26: 1–14.
 —S. A. Mori, Summit Herbarium of the Missouri Botanical Garden, Drawer S, Balboa Heights, Canal Zone.

CHROMOSOME NUMBERS OF PHANEROGAMS. 6.¹

Chromosome numbers of phanerogams are reported below together with voucher data and herbaria where collections are deposited. Unless indicated otherwise the chromosome records are based on the study of one plant. Haploid counts are from pollen mother cells, and diploid counts are from root tips unless otherwise indicated.

Citations should have the form: Doe, J. 1974. In Chromosome numbers of phanerogams. 4. Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 61:

Count by **Tilton Davis, IV**, University of Missouri, St. Louis, Missouri 63121.

Bud and seed material were received from Dr. J. L. Gentry at the Field Museum, Chicago.

SOLANACEAE

Jaltomata procumbens (Cav.) J. L. Gentry. $n = 12$. COSTA RICA. PROV. ALAJUELA: near Poasito, $10^{\circ}10' N \times 84^{\circ}12' W$., Gentry & Burger 2960 (F).

Counts by **Gerrit Davidse**, Missouri Botanical Garden and **Richard W. Pohl**, Iowa State University.

GRAMINEAE

Brachyelytrum erectum (Schreb.) Beauv. $n = 11$. U.S.A. MISSOURI: Washington Co., Clark National Forest, Davidse 3492 (MO).

Echinochloa crusgalli (L.) Beauv. var. *crusgalli* $n = 27$. U.S.A. MISSOURI: St. Charles Co., ca. 3 mi SW of Defiance, Davidse 3524 (MO).

Elymus villosus Muhl. $n = 14$. U.S.A. MISSOURI: Jefferson Co., ca. 5 mi E of Cedar Hill, Davidse 3460 (MO).

Panicum lanuginosum Ell. $n = 9$. U.S.A. MISSOURI: Jefferson Co., ca. 1 mi E of Cedar Hill, Davidse 3449 (MO).

Panicum lindheimeri Nash. $n = 9$. U.S.A. MISSOURI: Washington Co., Clark National Forest, Davidse 3504 (MO).

Paspalum pubiflorum Rupr. ex Fourn. $n = 30$. U.S.A. MISSOURI: Osage Co., Westphalia, Pohl 12468 (ISC).

Zizaniopsis miliacea (Mich.) Doell & Aschers. $n = 12$. U.S.A. LOUISIANA: La Fourche Parish, 4 mi W of Allemands, Wooten s.n. (ISC).

¹ The previous number in this series appeared in Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 61: 901–904.